

Elements of the Orbit of Comet a, 1884. By J. Tebbutt.

My observations of Pons' Comet having been interrupted on several occasions by cloudy weather, I have been enabled to devote some time to the calculation of the orbit of the comet whose positions I sent to you by a former mail. For the determination and verification of the elements I selected the following four Windsor positions, which are given with reference to the ecliptic and the mean equinox of 1884.0, but are uncorrected for aberration or parallax.

Greenwich M.T.	λ	β
Jan. 18 ^d 98218	327 23 13.7	-31 51 4.0
22.97140	331 9 25.7	-33 42 43.7
27.95377	334 58 39.6	-35 21 57.5
Feb. 1.98249	338 10 39.7	-36 36 2.9

As the comet was very faint at the time of the last observation, I adopted the first three places as a foundation for the calculation, and arrived at the following system of parabolic elements:—

T	...	...	= 1883, Dec. 25.30038, G.M.T.
π	...	...	= 125 44 23.9
Ω	...	...	= 264 23 59.6
i	...	...	= 65 0 54.8
log q	...	...	= 9.4910464
q	...	...	= 0.3097750

Motion Retrograde.

These elements reproduce the first three positions thus, the residuals being regarded in the sense of *calculation minus observation*:—

	$\Delta\lambda \cos \beta$	$\Delta\beta$
Jan. 18	-0.7	+0.6
22	-3.9	+4.0
27	-0.2	0.0

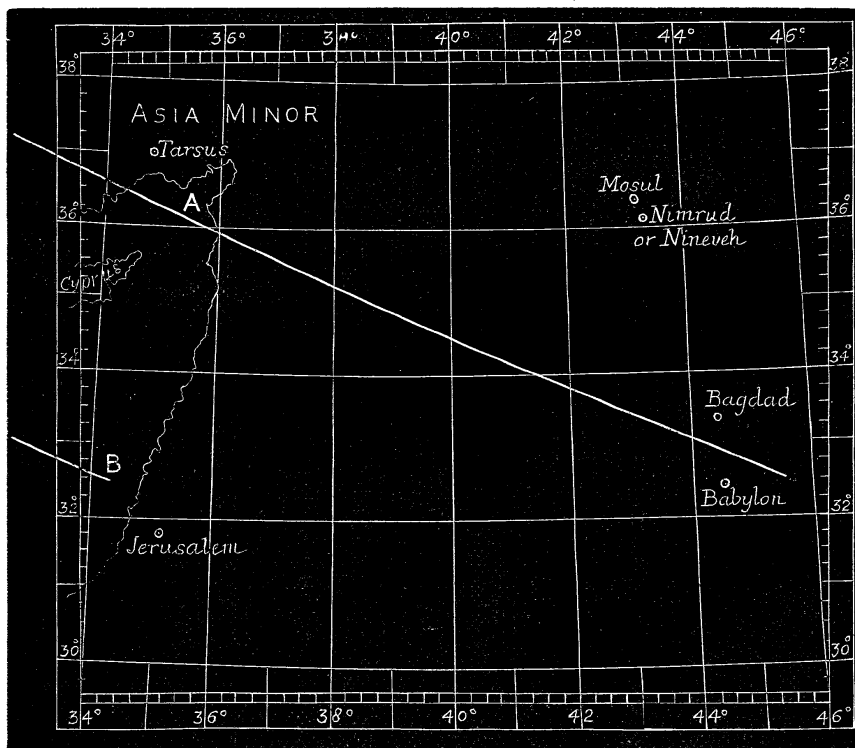
My last observation is represented thus:— $\Delta\lambda \cos \beta = -14''.0$, $\Delta\beta = +14''.4$, so that the above set of elements may be regarded as fairly representing the Windsor observations uncorrected for aberration and parallax. I trust when more extended observations are available to be able to take these corrections into account. No notice of this comet has appeared in the *Astronomische Nachrichten* to January 8, the latest date to hand, so it

is highly probable that the comet has escaped observation in the northern hemisphere. I trust, therefore, that the observations and elements which I have communicated may be of interest to the Society.

Observatory, Windsor, N.S.Wales :
1884 March 4.

Note on the Eclipse of Thales. By J. Maguire.

The solar eclipse of Thales, B.C. May 28, 585, has been calculated by eminent astronomers from Hansen's Lunar Tables, altered and unaltered. At the time of their publication, more than a quarter of a century ago, they were used by Sir G. B. Airy, then Astronomer Royal, for the calculation of this eclipse in Asia



Minor, as shown on his map in vol. xxvi. of the *Memoirs*. In this volume the latitudes and longitudes are given for points on the central and limiting lines of the shadow, but not the times at which the phase occurs. I adopted the Right Ascensions and Declinations of the Sun and Moon at the hours of two and four, as given under the letter K in the elements; and though I had no doubt of their accuracy, I nevertheless extracted all the par-